

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for manufacturing a honeycomb structure having slits and a plurality of arrays of numerous cells aligned in parallel, ~~[[;]]~~ the slits communicating with external space and being formed along the cell arrays, which comprises:

an extruder having an extruding die for a honeycomb structure; and
a slit forming member ~~apparatus~~ including at least two slit forming members extending parallel to each other, wherein the slit forming members are capable of moving during extrusion, are arranged near said extruding die, and ~~protruding~~ protrude along arrays of a molded article being extruded in which slits are to be formed.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for manufacturing a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 1,

wherein the slit forming member is arranged so as to protrude inwardly with respect to ~~toward~~ the extruding die.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for manufacturing a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 1,

wherein said slit forming member is arranged so as to protrude ~~slit-forming member~~ outwardly with respect to ~~toward~~ the extruding die.

4. (Original) The apparatus for manufacturing a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 3,

wherein said slit forming member is a J-shaped bit.

5. (Original) The manufacturing apparatus for a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring a position of the molded article being extruded; and

control means for controlling actions of the slit forming member.

6. (Original) The manufacturing apparatus for a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 2, further comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring a position of the molded article being extruded; and

control means for controlling actions of the slit forming member.

7. (Original) The manufacturing apparatus for a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 3, further comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring a position of the molded article being extruded; and

control means for controlling actions of the slit forming member.

8. (Original) The manufacturing apparatus for a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 4, further comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring a position of the molded article being extruded; and

control means for controlling actions of the slit forming member.